

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211412  
ORIGIN SS-25

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R 190257Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211412

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PINT, LE, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH CONDITIONS FOR RENEWAL OF UNIFIL

REF: A) PARIS 24552; B) STATE 204806; C) PARIS 25539

1. WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE CONDITIONS WHICH SECRETARY  
GENERAL SOUTOU OUTLINED FOR MAINTENANCE OF A REDUCED  
FRENCH TROOP CONTINGENT IN UNIFIL ON A SHORT-TERM BASIS.  
EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS TO SOUTOU, EM-  
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PHASIZING IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CONTINUATION OF FRENCH  
PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL:

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT FRANCE IS DISPOSED TO KEEP ITS  
TROOP CONTINGENT IN UNIFIL AFTER NEXT MONTH. AS WE  
HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE BELIEVE THE CONTINUED PRESENCE  
OF AN EFFECTIVE FRENCH UNIT WILL MAKE A CRITICAL CON-

TRIBUTION TO UNIFIL'S SUCCESS AND SOUTH LEBANON'S STABILITY. WHILE WE SHARE THE SENSE OF IMPORTANCE FRANCE ATTACHES TO DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT FORCES IN THE SOUTH IN WAYS THAT WILL NOT INVOLVE THEM IN PROBLEMS WITH PALESTINIAN, CHRISTIAN OR ISRAELI ELEMENTS -- AND ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE -- WE HOPE THE FRENCH WILL NOT MAKE THE CONTINUED PARTICIPATION OF THEIR UNIFIL UNIT CONTINGENT

PON SUCCESS BY A GIVEN DATE. MANY VARIABLES ARE INVOLVED IN THIS EFFORT AND SUCH LINKAGES WILL ONLY COMPOUND THE DIFFICULTIES OF ACHIEVING A STABLE PEACE IN THE AREA.

-- WE HAVE NOT PUT OUR TRUST IN ANY OF THE CONTENDING ELEMENTS; WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TOWARD AN END TO THE PRESENT STRIFE AND STEPS TOWARD RESTORATION OF LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY. WE VIEW THE DECISION TO SEND THE BATTALION SOUTH AS AN ESSENTIALLY POSITIVE SIGN. WE HOPE THAT THE VEXING QUESTION OF MAJOR HADDAD CAN BE DEALT WITH AND THAT THE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH WILL IMPROVE. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS, WHO ARE MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT LEBANON'S CHRISTIANS, WITH A VIEW TOWARD ENABLING THE LEBANESE BATTALION TO HAVE A PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH.  
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-- A BASIC NEED, IF LEBANESE STABILITY IS TO BE RESTORED, IS FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO SHARE FULLY IN EFFORTS TOWARD THIS END. THE PRESENCE OF UNIFIL PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN THIS REGARD EVEN IF IT HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE IN ALL RESPECTS.

-- FRANCE IS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THE AREA BECAUSE OF ITS TRADITIONAL INTERESTS THERE AND BECAUSE OF THE HIGH EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FRENCH CONTINGENT. A REDUCTION IN THE FRENCH TROOP CONTINGENT, AND AN EXTENSION OF THEIR STAY ON ONLY A SHORT-TERM BASIS, WOULD BE VIEWED BY OTHERS AS A NEGATIVE FRENCH JUDGMENT ON CHANCES FOR PUTTING, OR KEEPING, LEBANON TOGETHER.

-- IT MIGHT ALSO BE DIFFICULT TO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SUBSTITUTE FOR THE FRENCH CONTINGENT, SINCE A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS WHOSE TROOPS MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE, WILL PROBABLY BE CALLED ON WITHIN COMING WEEKS TO SUPPLY CONTINGENTS FOR NAMIBIA.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT IF WORD SHOULD LEAK OUT OF FRANCE'S PRESENT INTENTION, THE EFFECT ON MANDATE RENEWAL AND ON POSSIBILITIES FOR INCREASING UNIFIL'S EFFECTIVENESS COULD BE DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE. WE HOPE THAT THE FRENCH WILL RECONSIDER THEIR POSITION, AND DECIDE TO MAINTAIN THEIR PRESENT UNIFIL COMMITMENTS FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

-- WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE RECENT FRENCH EFFORTS TO PERSUADE LEBANESE CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO BRING THE MILITIA COMMANDERS IN THE SOUTH TO THEIR SENSES.

-- WE APPRECIATE ALSO THE FRENCH DEMARCHE WHICH URGED  
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THE MODERATES TO SUPPORT THE SARKIS GOVERNMENT.

-- WE WOULD WELCOME MORE FREQUENT EXCHANGES WITH SOUTOU ON LEBANON IN THE COMING WEEKS. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO SHARE OUR THOUGHTS ON LEBANON, PARTICULARLY IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO CONSIDERATION OF UNIFIL RENEWAL BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN MID-SEPTEMBER. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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